THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government had submitted a memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 445.59 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team has already visited the affected areas and has submitted its report. The report of the Central Team is under various stages of processing, as per the established procedure for assistance from the NFCR.

Protection of Small and Marginal Farmers

488. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over two million small and marginal farmers are being laid off their land holding every year and they are joining the rank of labourers;

'(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have set up any committee to recommend suitable remedies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (d) As per various Agricultural Censuses, the number of small and marginal farmers has been increasing in the country. *(See* below) as Statement. The number of agricultural labourers has also been going up but in absence of any evidence, it can not be attributed to laying off land by small and marginal farmers.

Statement

Number of Marginal and Small Holdings in various Agricultural Censuses.

	No. of operational holdings (in Million)			Area operated (in Million ha.)		
Year	Marginal.	Small.	Total Holdings.	Marginal.	Small.	Total area operated
1970-71	36.2	13.4	71.0	14.6	19.3	162.1
	(51-0)	(18.8)	(100.0)	(9.0)	(11.9)	(100.0)
1976-77	44.5	14.7	81.6	17.5	20.9	163.3
	(54.6)	(18.1)	(100.0)	(10.7)	(12.8)	(100.0)
1980-81	50.1	16.1	89.9	19.7	23.2	163.8
	(56.4)	(18.1)	(100.0)	(12.1)	(14.1)	(100.0)
1985-86	56.1	17.9	97.2	22.0	25.7	164.6
	(57.8)	(18.5)	(100.0)	(13.4)	(15.6)	**(100.0)**
1990-91	63.4	20.1	106.6	24.9	28.8	165.5
	(59.4)	(18.8)	(100.0)	(15.0)	(17.4)	(100.0)

Figures in brackets indicate percentages to the total. Post of

Chairman, NDDB